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V. "After the abolition of the African slave in 1808 had increased the demand for Virginia bred slaves in the States farther south, the very idea of emancipation faded out of memory." (Vol. II, p. 191). This is a serious error. One of the greatest debates that ever took place in the Virginia Legislature, was in the winter of 1831-32, on the proposition to gradually abolish slavery in the State, and the measure was only defeated by a few votes.

In the July number we will continue our comments on Prof. Fiske's most valuable and charming work.

SKETCHES FROM OLD VIRGINIA. By A. G. Bradley. Published by the Macmillan Company. Price, \$1.50.

Contents: Introduction; The Doctor; An Old Virginia Foxhunter; On the old Bethel 'Pike; Parkin, the Saddler; The Poor Whites of the Mountains; The Virginia Quail; Marse Bob after the War; Two Episodes of Rumbling Creek; Some Plantation Memories; A Turkey Hunter.

We have read these "Sketches from Old Virginia" with a peculiar interest, and venture to predict that as time goes on they will be considered to have very great historical value. There are many accounts and sketches of life in Virginia in the age of slavery, both in colonial times and after the Revolution; but these sketches of Mr. Bradley present the only adequate picture known to us of social and economic conditions prevailing after the war, in that short period when the old order lingered only as an echo lingers, after the original sound has gone forever. It was a period of extraordinary interest, when the last representatives of the old regime were rapidly passing away one by one, and when the old agricultural conditions were fast disappearing in the new. It was the twilight of the old days. It was well that there should have been amongst us at this pathetic hour a writer of quick insight, observant eye and great power of sympathy, to record what he saw of life and character in the State. Mr. Bradley is an Englishman and a foreigner, but not the lamented Bagby was more tenderly appreciative of the humorous and touching sides of old Virginian individuality than he is. Where can we find a more sympathetic, more appreciative, more humorous sketch of Virginian character than in Mr. Bradley's "The Doctor?" It is full of the warmth of genuine life. Not a detail is lacking to bring the old Virginian directly home to the reader. The pathos may not be quite as moving as Mr. Page's in similar sketches, but the humor is even more effective. In the article, "On the old Bethel 'Pike," there is crowded all the graphic details of the great changes which have taken place in the agricultural aspect of old Virginia as well as in her homes since the new regime began—changes produced partly by the abolition of slavery, but even more so by the decline in the value of farming products, owing to the opening up of the West. In "Parkin, the Saddler," we have a sketch of a member of the lower class, as in "The Doctor" we have a

sketch of a member of the higher, only here we are brought still closer home to those aspects of physical nature which prevail in Virginia. Mr. Bradley has always a keen eye to details of scenery, whether open plain or woods, and in this sketch we get very delightful visions of the natural beauty of the Blue Ridge. This is still more the case in the "Poor Whites of the Mountains," in which we are made keenly aware of the leaping trout streams, the leafy shades, the dark gorges, the glorious crags, of that region. In "Marse Bob after the War" we have a very vivid and humorous account of a planter who hugged the worst traditions of the past in his planting on a large scale, and who subordinated everything to the culture of tobacco; and in "Some Plantation Memories" there are several very humorous sketches of the negro of the new age.

In his introduction, Mr. Bradley falls into several errors; first, there is, so far as we know, no ground for his statement that there was ever a manor house in Virginia built of brick imported from England. Evidence that this was ever the fact would be gladly received by students of economic conditions in old Virginia.

Mr. Bradley speaks of William and Mary College as second only to Harvard in antiquity but distinguished for nothing else. This sounds odd when it is recalled that William and Mary was the alma mater of Jefferson, Monroe, Marshall, Tyler and other alumni hardly less celebrated from an international point of view. Virginians will also be surprised to hear that the University of Virginia has been a dubious boon to the wealthy class of students, because but for its existence this class would have gone to the North or England for their education. With the exception of these few errors, the introduction shows an astonishingly accurate knowledge of the trend of Virginian history, both social and political.

THE BEGINNERS OF A NATION. A history of the Source and Rise of the Earliest English Settlements in America, with special reference to the Life and Character of the People. By Edward Eggleston. New York. D. Appleton and Company, 1897. Pages xiv—377.

The words on the fly leaf reveal the purpose and spirit of this work. It is the first of a series of volumes looking to "A History of Life in the United States." To an author so conscious and observant of the sense of proportion as Dr. Eggleston, the plan of the work and the relations of the parts to the whole, mean everything; and unless the reader observes this, too, it is just possible that he will misinterpret his author and look for something in these pages never intended to be there. Indeed, this mastery over material and severe restraint in the use of it, unless it be to enlarge a point hitherto in doubt, or not elsewhere determined, is a marked characteristic of the author's method. It is not, therefore, an old story, already well known, retold; it is the old story